

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim-6 14, further comprising:

a light guiding plate disposed between the electrical display panel and the holder, the light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the electrical display panel, wherein:

the holder functions as a reflection plate for reflecting the light on the electrical display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate.

8. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying symbols associated with an award; and

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, wherein:

the front display device includes:

a liquid crystal panel through which the variable display device can be seen;

a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel;

a rear holder disposed between the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the rear holder functioning as a reflection plate for reflecting the light on the liquid crystal panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the rear holder having a predetermined thickness in order to hold the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate from a rear side thereof;

the rear holder is provided with an opening in an area at which the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device are displayed through the liquid crystal panel; and

~~a peripheral corner portion of the opening of the rear holder, the opening at a side of the variable display device in a thickness direction of the rear holder, is removed so as not be viewed through the liquid crystal panel~~

a peripheral corner portion in a rear side in a thickness direction of the opening formed in the holder is removed therefrom, and

the removed portion of the peripheral corner portion is prevented from being viewed by the player when a player observes the variable display device behind the electrical display panel through the reel display window unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein:

the peripheral corner portion of the opening in a rear side of the rear holder is removed in a stepped-down form.

10. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 8, further comprising:

an antistatic sheet for preventing static charge, provided in part of the opening in the rear side of the rear holder, the part at which the peripheral corner portion has been removed, so as to cover the rear side of the opening of the rear holder.

11. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein:

the variable display device is made up of a rotatable reel on which the symbols are drawn; and

the reel of the variable display device is disposed internally of the gaming machine so that part of an outer periphery of the reel, the part positioned at the forefront is exposed from the opening in the rear side of the rear holder.

12. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim-6 14, wherein the peripheral corner portion in a the rear side in a the thickness direction of the opening is removed such that a periphery edge of the holder on the rear side in a the thickness direction of the opening is not within a viewable range of a player viewing the symbol combination through the opening of the holder.

13. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 8, wherein the peripheral corner portion in a rear side in a thickness direction of the opening is removed such that a periphery edge of the holder on the rear side in a thickness direction of the opening is not within a viewable range of a player viewing the symbol combination through the opening of the holder.

14. (New) A gaming machine comprising:
a variable display device for variably displaying a symbol combination associated with an award;
a reel display window unit disposed in front of the variable display device;
an electrical display panel disposed between the reel display window unit and the variable display device; and
a holder disposed between the electrical display panel and the variable display device, the holder for holding the electrical display panel from the rear side thereof,

wherein:

the holder has a front facial surface and an opposing rear facial surface defining a thickness therebetween with an opening formed therethrough in a thickness direction, the holder has an outer peripheral surface disposed apart from, extending about and surrounding the opening, a front inner peripheral surface extending from the front facial surface and partially towards the rear facial surface in the thickness direction to terminate in a front inner peripheral edge to define a front opening portion of the opening and a rear inner peripheral surface extending from the rear facial surface and partially towards the front facial surface in the thickness direction to terminate in a rear inner peripheral edge to define a

rear opening portion of the opening, the rear inner peripheral edge is disposed apart from the front inner peripheral edge to form an interior wall extending from the front inner peripheral edge to the rear inner peripheral edge, peripherally about the front opening portion and outwardly towards the outer peripheral surface to define a stepped-down recess extending from the rear facial surface and partially into the holder and the opening is rectangular and smaller than the reel display window unit,

the reel display window unit displays the symbol combination through the opening of the holder and the electrical display panel, the symbol combination displayed on the variable display device,

the front opening portion has a front opening portion area, the rear opening portion has a rear opening portion area larger than the front opening portion area and

the rear opening portion defines a peripheral corner portion in the rear side in the thickness direction of the opening formed in the holder with the peripheral corner portion removed therefrom and

the removed portion of the peripheral corner portion is prevented from being viewed by a player when the player observes the variable display device behind the electrical display panel through the reel display window unit.

15. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 14,

wherein the front inner peripheral surface extends towards the rear facial surface in the thickness direction at a first distance, the rear inner peripheral surface extends toward the front facial surface in the thickness direction at a second distance, the first and second distances being approximately equal to one another.

16. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 15,

wherein the interior wall extends from the front inner peripheral edge to the rear inner peripheral edge at an interior wall distance, the interior wall distance being equal to or greater than the first and second distances